

Remarks

Claims 11-28 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 11-24 have been amended to claim a process for lubricating wool which utilizes a mixture of C<sub>6-22</sub> fatty acid methyl esters wherein the mixture of fatty acid methyl esters comprises a mixture of methyl esters of coconut fatty acids, palm kernel fatty acids and palm oil fatty acids, and contacting the wool fibers with the lubricant composition. Claims 14, 17, 20 and 23 have been cancelled.

Claim 25 has been amended to indicate that the lubricant composition can optionally contain water and additives. The additives are defined in the specification at page 5, lines 16-19.

Claims 11-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Becker et al. (US 5, 439,709) alone or in combination with Aneja (U.S. 5,837,370). Applicants respectfully submit that Becker et al. and Aneja, whether considered alone or in combination, neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

Becker et al., alone or in combination with Aneja, neither teaches nor suggests the method of claims 11-24 which lubricate the wood fiber with a mixture of fatty acid methyl esters which comprise a mixture of methyl esters of coconut fatty acids, palm kernel fatty acids, and palm oil fatty acids. Nowhere in Becker et al. is there teaching or suggestion that a mixture of all three of the mixtures of fatty acids of coconut fatty acids, palm kernel fatty acids and palm oil fatty acids be combined and utilized as a lubricant with unexpectedly good lubricating properties. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that a rejection of claims 11-24 over the combination of Becker et al. and Aneja neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

Aneja et al. does not cure the deficiencies in the teachings of Becker et al. since Aneja et al. is directed to the lubrication of wool and/or polyester fibers by the use of a silicone lubricant composition. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Aneja does not cure the deficiencies in Becker et al.

Claims 25-28 are patentable over the combination of Becker et al. with Aneja

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since there is neither teaching nor suggestion of a lubricating composition of fatty acid methyl esters consisting essentially of esters derived from fatty acids selected from the group consisting of coconut fatty acids, palm kernel fatty acids and palm oil fatty acids and mixtures thereof in combination with emulsifiers and optionally water and additives. In addition, Becker et al. neither teaches nor suggests a lubricant composition wherein the coconut fatty acid methyl esters of palm kernel fatty acid methyl esters and the palm oil fatty acid methyl esters are present in a ratio by weight of 1:1:1. In addition, claim 27 is not obvious over the combination of Becker et al. and Aneja since there is neither teaching nor suggestion of utilizing a mixture of C<sub>9-22</sub> fatty acid methyl esters consisting essentially of a mixture of coconut fatty acid methyl esters, palm kernel fatty acid methyl esters and palm oil fatty acid methyl esters.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants have requested a certified copy of the priority documents. Applicants will submit them to the United States Patent and Trademark Office when they are received.

Respectfully submitted,



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